

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /078 R

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P R 292304Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CY, TU

SUBJECT:CYPRUS SITUATION - NOON PRESS BRIEFING

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S ON CYPRUS SITUATION,
NOON PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 29:

QUOTE: Q: THERE IS A REPORT THAT THE TURKS WITHDREW A
THOUSAND TROOPS FROM CYPRUS. HAS THE U.S. BEEN IN CONTACT
WITH THE TURKS TO SEE IF THERE WOULD BE ANY FURTHER WITH-
DRAWALS IN THE NEXT WEEK?

A: ON THIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT
MADE, LET ME MAKE TWO POINTS. FIRST OF ALL, OBVIOUSLY
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WE ARE IN TOUCH CONSTANTLY WITH ALL THE PARTIES TO THE

CYPRUS QUESTION, THAT ARE INVOLVED IN THE CYPRUS QUESTION.

NOW, WITH REGARD TO THIS SPECIFIC ANNOUNCEMENT, JUST LET ME SAY THAT WHILE THE ANNOUNCED DRAW-DOWN IS NOT LARGE, IT REPRESENTS A POSITIVE STEP, AND SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER STEPS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN, OR ABOUT TO BE UNDERTAKEN, TO DIMINISH TENSION AND EASE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN CYPRUS.

Q: WHAT IS ABOUT TO BE UNDERTAKEN? WOULD YOU BE SPECIFIC?

A: AND IN PARTICULAR THE CONTINUING INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS WHICH HAVE ALREADY SUCCEEDED IN RESOLVING CERTAIN HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, AND ARE NOW INVOLVED IN DISCUSSING IMPORTANT POLITICAL MATTERS.

NOW, AS THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, HE PLANS TO MEET WITH PEOPLE IN THE CONGRESS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE CYPRUS QUESTION FOLLOWING THE NEXT MEETING BETWEEN MR. CLERIDES AND MR. DENKTASH, WHICH WILL BE TAKING PLACE THIS FRIDAY.

NOW WITH REGARD TO YOUR QUESTION THAT YOU JUST ASKED ABOUT STEPS ABOUT TO BE UNDERTAKEN, ETC., OBVIOUSLY I THINK YOU WOULD ALL AGREE IT IS A DELICATE PROBLEM. IT IS A DELICATE SITUATION HERE. AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHAT MR. CLERIDES AND MR. DENKTASH ARE DISCUSSING. WE BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE, AND I THINK THE SECRETARY MADE IT CLEAR YESTERDAY HE WANTS TO WAIT AND SEE HOW THE MEETING COMES OUT ON FRIDAY, AND THEN HE WILL BE IN TOUCH.

Q: BUT YOU ARE SAYING THAT THIS IS A POSITIVE STEP, AND SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER STEPS ABOUT TO BE UNDERTAKEN, OR THAT ARE NOW UNDERTAKEN. THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN ACCEPT THIS STATEMENT WITHOUT MORE DETAIL, BECAUSE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE CRITICIZED THIS AS JUST A TOKEN OF U.S. INFLUENCE.

A: NO, I HAVE SAID OBVIOUSLY THE ANNOUNCED DRAW-DOWN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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NOT LARGE. BUT I THINK THAT IN TRYING TO LOOK TOWARDS AN EVENTUAL SOLUTION OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, THE QUESTION OF A REDUCTION OF TROOPS IS AN ELEMENT IN THE EQUATION HERE, AND IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT. BUT THERE ARE OTHER ELEMENTS THAT WE HOPE WILL BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE TENSION ON THE ISLAND, BUT I CANNOT GO INTO WHAT THE TWO LEADERS, INTER-COMMUNAL LEADERS, ON CYPRUS ARE DISCUSSING NOW.

Q: WELL, I APPRECIATE THE DELICACY, BUT YOU SEEM TO BE SAYING SOMETHING DIFFERENT NOW, BUT PERHAPS YOU CAN AT LEAST HELP US TO THIS EXTENT- IT IS NOT AN EXPECTATION, IT IS ALREADY KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER STEPS THAT WILL BE TAKEN, YOU WANT TO TELL US, YOU ARE REFERRING TO, RIGHT?

A: YES.

Q: THERE ARE OTHER STEPS THAT WILL BE TAKEN. AND, SECONDLY, YOU DON'T MEAN BY THOSE OTHER STEPS, DO YOU,

THE TWICE WEEKLY TALKS. YOU MEAN SOME PHYSICAL STEPS. CAN YOU AT LEAST HELP US TO THAT EXTENT?

A: NO, NO.

Q: OTHERWISE, YOU ARE REFERRING TO SOMETHING WE KNOW ABOUT"

A: NO, NO. I HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT ONE SIGN OF DEFINITE PROGRESS WAS THE MERE FACT OF THE INCREASED TEMPO OF THE TALKS.

Q: RIGHT.

A: AND THESE TALKS ARE NOT SOLELY DEALING WITH HUMANI-TARIAN ISSUES. THEY ARE NOW DEALING WITH IMPORTANT POLITICAL QUESTIONS, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IN THE LATTER CATEGORY THAT SOME PROGRESS IS GOING TO BE MADE. BUT THE SECRETARY, AS HE SAID YESTERDAY, WANTS TO WAIT AND SEE -- AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE TALKS THAT ARE GOING TO BE TAKING PLACE ON FRIDAY. AND THEN HE
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WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q: YOUR STATEMENT APPEARS TO CLEARLY SAY THAT THERE ARE STEPS THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN, AND NOT ONLY WILL THEY BE UNDERTAKEN, BUT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THESE STEPS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN. IF ENGLISH MEANS ANY-THING, I THINK THAT IS WHAT YOU SAID.

A: THAT IS CORRECT, YES.

Q: WE WERE INFORMED IN ADVANCE THAT THESE THOUSAND WOULD BE WITHDRAWN, I PRESUME, FROM WHAT YOU WERE SAYING. BECAUSE I REMEMBER SOME MONTHS AGO THERE WERE REPORTS OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF TWO OR THREE THOUSAND THAT I

BELIEVE ENDED UP BEING MERELY A ROTATION, LEAVING STILL
35,000 TURKS ON THE ISLAND. THIS IS NOW DEFINITELY A
DRAW-DOWN FROM THE TOTAL NUMBER, AND WE WERE INFORMED
IN ADVANCE THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN?

A: YES, WE WERE INFORMED.

Q: WELL, HOW MANY TURKS ARE LEFT ON THE ISLAND NOW?

A: I DO NOT KNOW. I JUST DON'T KNOW. THERE HAVE BEEN
VARIOUS ESTIMATES OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF FORCES.

Q: THE NUMBER HAS FLUCTUATED, HASN'T IT?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT HAS FLUCTUATED OR NOT. I
DON'T HAVE THE EXACT NUMBER.

Q: ON THAT POINT, DOES THE SECRETARY REGARD THIS AS
SUFFICIENT CAUSE TO ASK CONGRESS TO DELAY THE CUT-OFF
OF AID, AID TO TURKEY, MILITARY AID TO TURKEY?

A: ON THAT ONE, I JUST WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE YOU WITH
WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY. HE SAID HE WILL
BE MEETING AFTER THE FRIDAY MEETING BETWEEN DENKTASH AND
CLERIDES, WILL BE CONSULTING WITH INTERESTED MEMBERS
OF THE CONGRESS. UNQUOTE KISSINGER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE021147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WJGEHRON:SS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750033-0514
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975019/aaaaahqx.tel
Line Count: 201
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by MarshK0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YPRUS SITUATION - NOON PRESS BRIEFING FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S ON CYPRUS SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU
To: ANKARA NICOSIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006